

COUNTRY Approved For Release 2000/06/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457

REPORT NO

TOPIC Soviet and Polish Troops in Schweidnitz. 25X1AEVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1ADATE OF CONTENT prior to November 1950DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A DATE PREPARED 10 September 1951REFERENCES [REDACTED] 25X1APAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Up to November 1950, Soviet troops occupied the former artillery barracks, called the Barbara Kasern, located in the northeastern sector of the city, north of former Woyrsch Street, and east of an electric meter and clock plant on Zuelzendorf (P 14/H 16) road. In the summer of 1950, 12 guns and an unidentified number of AA guns, located in excavations about 0.5 meters deep, were observed in the barracks area. Numerous three-axle trucks were parked in the barracks yard. Source saw about eight AA guns, emplaced in a kind of defense system, on a hill southwest of the city and also on the south side of Freiburger Street, but he could not remember the exact date of observation. (1)
2. Billets, called the Polko Barracks, were occupied up to November 1950 by Polish troops, described as armored infantrymen by workmen employed in the installation. The barracks area was marked by a steel radio tower, about 30 meters high. The installation was bounded by Untere Bolko Street, Breslau Street, Woyrsch Street, and Aeusserer Kirchen Street.
3. Another barracks installation, which was also located in the northeastern sector of the city and merely consisted of one multi-story billets compound, was occupied by Polish troops, who were observed carrying rifles only. The pinpoint location of these billets was not specified by source, who was only sure that the installation was constructed between 1935 and 1939. The former German recruiting office, whose building was occupied by Polish authorities, is located east of these billets. The old former Maria Theresia Kaserne located nearby was gutted. (2)
4. The Soviet post hospital was located in the former German hospital. A Soviet post officers' mess was located near the railroad station. Two or three high-ranking army officers wearing red stripes along the outer seams of their trousers, and three high-ranking air force officers wearing blue stripes met regularly in the mess. All these officers were referred to as generals by [REDACTED]. One Soviet Captain Fegen, (fnu), who was known to be the supply officer of the Soviet headquarters located in Schweidnitz, was in charge of the mess. In 1949, he was replaced by a Soviet civilian. A [REDACTED]

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5. A Soviet headquarters was located in the building of the former Amtsgericht, on the east side of the street leading from the railroad station to the Ring. In the mess, an army general was referred to as commander of the headquarters. However, source also stated that the high-ranking air force officers mentioned above belonged to the same headquarters. The headquarters was in a multi-story brick structure separate from the others.
6. The extensive barracks installations in the southwestern sector of the city on former Grenadier Street were occupied by Soviet airmen. Also, troops wearing red epaulets were occasionally observed there by source.
7. The residential suburb in the southwestern sector of the city on the Waldenburg (O 51/H 07) road was requisitioned by the Soviets and served exclusively as a residential area for officers of the post. The roads leading to the area were guarded.
8. The relationships between the Soviet and the Polish troops were purely official. Only at official festivals were Polish officers invited to the Soviet post mess. Soviet soldiers refused to salute Polish officers. No Soviet troops took part in the review and the festival demonstration march held on 1 May. The Soviet troops, who marched to sport events or the movies in close order, were only rarely seen on the streets of the city.
9. According to a letter from Schweidnitz received by source in May 1951, the troops belonging to the Soviet force of the post were relieved. No more details were available.

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- (1) Previous reports by other resettlers, whose statements covered the period prior to mid-October 1950, stated that Soviet troops wearing blue uniforms and blue epaulets and brown uniforms with black epaulets, partially furnished with crossed-gunbarrel insignia, were observed in the barracks installation. The present report confirms the information on the location of artillery units furnished by the reference report to some extent, although the uniforms described by the reference report remain unidentifiable.
- (2) A previous report stated that the Bolko Barracks were occupied by Polish troops, whereas the multi-story building located in the northeastern sector of the city and occupied by Polish troops was not mentioned in previous reports. Inasmuch as no heavy weapons were observed, the troops located in the two barracks installations may be militia units. Reports by other resettlers of mid-October 1950 on the occupation of this installation were fairly consistent with the present one. See

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